

Remarks/Arguments

Each rejection and objection is addressed under original subject and numeric heading set forth in the Office Action.

Claim Status

Claims 1, 3, 5-17, 19-21 and 26-30 are pending. Claims 2, 4 and 22-25 are withdrawn. Claim 18 is canceled.

Claim rejections 35 USC §102

4. *Claims 1, 3, 5-11, 13-16, 18-21, 26-30 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Singer et al (US 6,013,733).*

Singer et al disclose polymers polymerized from monomers containing n,n-dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate, an methacrylate having tertiary amine as functional group (Table 1, Example 1-5, and Table 6, Example 12 and 13, Singer et al).

Singer et al further disclose polymers having weight average molecular weight over 4500 (Table 2, Example 6 and 7, Table 3, Examples 8 and 9, and Table 4, Examples 10 and 11, Singer et al).

Instant invention as set forth in claims 1 and 26 excludes tertiary amine as functional groups. Instant invention further requires weight average molecular weight ranging from about 1000 to 4500. Part of claims 1 and 26 are shown below (with bold fonts added):

"a copolymer having on an average 2 to 25 crosslinkable groups selected from the group **consisting of** hydroxyl, acetoacetoxy, carboxyl, **primary amine, secondary amine,** epoxy and a combination thereof; a weight average molecular weight ranging from about **1000 to 4500;**"

Singer et al fail to teach each and every elements of the instant invention as set forth in claims 1 and 26.

Claims 3, 5-11, 13-16, 19-21 and 27-28 are directly or ultimately dependent from claim 1. Limitations of claim 1 are read into these claims. Reasoning above is equally applicable to these claims.

Claims 29-30 are dependent from claim 26. Limitations of claim 26 are read into these claims. Reasoning above is equally applicable to these claims.

Current Office Action includes claim 18 in the rejections. Applicants respectfully point out that claim 18 was canceled previously. A correction is requested.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejections to these claims under 35 USC 102(b) be withdrawn.

Claim rejections 35 USC §103

6. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Singer et al (US 6,013,733) in view of Roesler et al (US 2003/023942 A1)

As presented above, Singer et al fail to teach the instant invention as set forth in claim 1. Claim 12 is dependent from claim 1. Limitations of claim 1 are read into this claim. Reasoning above is equally applicable to this claim.

In fact, Singer et al require n,n-dimethylalminoethyl methacrylate, an methacrylate having tertiary amine as functional group, or a polymer having weight average molecular weight over 4500 (Table 2, Example 6 and 7, Table 3, Examples 8 and 9, and Table 4, Examples 10 and 11, Singer et al), teaching away from the instant invention.

Further, as stated in current Office Action, Signer et al fail to teach a coating composition comprising isocyanatopropyl trimethoxy silane.

In combination, both references fail to teach the functional group requirement and molecular weight limitations as set forth above. Therefore, it would not have been obvious to those of ordinary skill in the art to arrive at the instant invention at the time the invention was made.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejections to claim 12 under 35 USC 103(a) be withdrawn.

7. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Singer et al (US 6,013,733) in view of Gupta et al (US 6,867,250).

Claim 17 is dependent from claim 1. Limitations of claim 1 are read into this claim. Reasoning and observations above are equally applicable to this claim.

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In combination, both references fail to teach the functional group requirement and molecular weight limitations as set forth above. Therefore, it would not have been obvious to those of ordinary skill in the art to arrive at the instant invention at the time the invention was made.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejections to claim 17 under 35 USC 103(a) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the distinguishing observations concerning the references overcome the rejections maintained in the Office Action. The pending claims are in conditions for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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